

# Welcome to Torrance



By JACK O. BALDWIN

I hope that if a deputy income tax collector spots my car with a new top and paint job that he won't think I'm making a secret killing in the stock market. Far from it. Matter of fact it is practically the other way around.

I had agreed to help a neighbor who was leaving for the east, permanently, locate a home for their family pet—a playful kid-loving Boxer. I just put the dog in the back yard, closed the gate, and left the rear garage door open so the pup (he stands about 18 inches) could get into the garage and out of the frosty night air. Next morning, I went to the garage to leave for work. All around the car, from the window ledge down were hundreds of claw marks—some straight as arrows and others in crazy zig-zaggy patterns. There went my paint job. This wasn't enough. The playful little pup (he must weigh about 35 pounds) climbed, leaped, or used a ladder to get up on the hood. More scratch marks. Then, thinking that my top would make a nice soft bed, he climbed up there, too. It was somewhat of a shock to see my top hanging in shreds inside the car.

If you would care to experience a foolish feeling come ride with me. I pulled up to a stop signal about 11:30 last night, bundled up in a top coat, scarf, and hat pulled down until it touched my ears which were frozen pink. The temperature for a January night at 11:30 was about where it usually is on a January night about 11:30—way down low. And there I sat in my convertible with the top down. I saw the people in the car alongside saying undoubtedly something like this:

"Look at that fool. Overcoat, hat, gloves and he's got his top down."

I felt even more like a prospective patient for Patton Tuesday morning riding to work with the top down—in the rain. I've an appointment to get a new top tomorrow, but until then I have stretched a plastic table cloth across most of the gaping hole.

Jack Davis, one of our ad men, suggested that it would be a nice place for a picnic. This remark, I believe, qualifies Mr. Davis for what I think is often referred to as a "fat car."

Lately whenever it rains I think of the predicament that Doug Horlander found himself in during a recent rain storm. Doug, one of the owners of the Paramount Builders on Torrance Blvd., was then working for a construction firm. He received a phone call from his wife, Joanne, who was soon to infantize.

"Doug, the floor heater is sizzling."

It was raining like mad. "Well," he told her, "don't worry about it. I'll be home in a little while after she called again."

"Doug, the heater has gone out."

Hubby Doug turned up his raincoat collar, slushed across the mud to his car and drove home.

At home he put his car near the floor over the grill of the floor furnace.

"I hear water slushing around," he told Joanne as he headed for the closet and the trap door that opened to give access to under the house.

What he saw would probably shock most people just as it did Doug when he lifted the trap.

Water, dirty, muddy water slushed only inches beneath the underside of the hardwood floor. The water was almost 18 inches deep—captured in a great pool underneath the house.

"Get me a pipe wrench out in the garage," Doug shouted as he began hastily emptying his pockets and pulling off his wrist watch. Then armed with the wrench he leaped feet first through the trap door into the chilly, muddy waters.

Crawling on his hands and knees across the slimy mud he made his way toward the clean-out trap in the sewer line. The water was so deep it touch-



**GATEWAY TO CITY NEEDS PAINT JOB . . .** So says the Torrance American Legion Post about this railroad overpass on Torrance Blvd. "Present appearance of the concrete structure with its rusty stains and tattered campaign posters creates the impression visitors are entering a shanty town instead of a town of 40,000," said Legionnaires after a recent meeting.

"We'll furnish the manpower to paint it if some other organization or the city will furnish the paint," the veterans volunteered. It was suggested that the words "Entering Torrance—Population 40,000" be painted on the entrance side of the structure. Outgoing side should have similar motto, suggested another group of Torrance boosters.

# Torrance Gardens, Plaza Plan Homeowner's Group

## Organizational Meeting Grows Out of Informal Discussions

Residents of Torrance Gardens and Torrance Plaza will hold a public meeting at the Fern Ave. Elementary School at 8 p.m. next Tuesday, Jan. 13, to organize a homeowners association, it was announced yesterday.

Homeowners from various parts of the huge tract have been discussing informally the formation of such a group for the past few months. Ralph Schmidt, 1220 Maple Ave., has been elected temporary chairman of the group.

"A real need for such a civic minded organization has long been noted by citizens of this large new residential area to meet their specific problems," Schmidt said.

He said the backers of the organization felt that a strong local group with a common purpose would insure all a satisfactory method of working out various problems of the community.

Rev. Cecil J. England, pastor of the First Christian Church, and a resident of Torrance Plaza, will discuss briefly various aspects of a homeowners' association. Discussion of community improvements will precede election of officers and adoption of the Articles of Association, Schmidt said.

ed to bottom of the floor joists.

"I had to take a breath of air, then go under water and come up between the joists. Take another breath of air and duck down under each joist until I reached the plug in the sewer line," he said retelling his experience.

"Then for nearly two hours I sat in the water, letting it empty into the sewer line. I had to keep clearing the opening, which would clog up with debris being sucked against the opening," he related.

How did Doug get into such a predicament? It seems a neighbor decided to put in a patio and so changed the contour of the ground that the waters of a torrential downpour ran onto Doug's lot and under the house.

The damage to the house, how it had to be jacked up and re-leveled, and what was done to prevent the same thing happening the next rain is another story.

## Cub Pack Feed At Jim Dandy's Set Saturday

If the rain goes away, Cub Scout Packs 223-C and 241-C will hold the first of what they hope to be annual pancake breakfasts Saturday morning from 8 o'clock until noon on the Jim Dandy Market parking lot, Crenshaw and Torrance Bldvs.

Serving up grub provided by the market and its suppliers will be mothers of the Pack members. Sausages, hot cakes, coffee, orange juice and milk make up the main menu for the Saturday feed. Cereal will be available for the small tykes.

Entertainment will be provided throughout the morning. Paul Sternagle's Guitar Band, Bettie Thomas' Accordionettes, and Nadine Nickol's music students will provide part of the musical bill-of-fare.

"You can eat all you want for your 25-cent donation," Mrs. Ralph M. Robertson, supervisor of the affair, said yesterday. Proceeds of the breakfast will go to the general funds of the two Cub Packs. Tables and chairs from the Civic Auditorium will be provided, and tickets may be purchased at the breakfast.

In the event of rain, the breakfast will have to be canceled, Mrs. Robertson said. Tickets which have been purchased will be good when the feed is rescheduled.

## WEATHER

"Keep your umbrella handy," the weatherman said yesterday. He predicted more rain for today and tomorrow.

# Gibson Seeks Return To L. A. Council East

Councilman John S. Gibson, representative of the 15th district for the past 18 months, was one of the first city officials to file declaration of intention to seek re-election yesterday. The declaration, required from all candidates for municipal office, was filed with City Clerk Walter H. Peterson.

Possibility that Gibson might enter the race unopposed was sounded by local political observers, who said that prior to this week not a single certain candidate had been disclosed. However, other candidates have until Jan. 12 to make declarations.

Should Gibson go unopposed, he will become the first man in the 27-year history of the district to do so. Several times incumbents have faced only one opponent, but not one has ever been returned to office without opposition.

**1939 Recalled**  
Unless there is a sudden mad rush for the city clerk's office, the present councilman will not have to face a field as large as that which opposed Franklin P. Buyer in 1939. That year a total of 11 candidates qualified, highest in history. Wilder Hartley was the ultimate winner, defeating Buyer in the final election.

Hartley and George H. Moore were the only candidates in 1943 and 1945, while Moore and Elmer G. McClung opposed each other in 1949. Moore won in each instance. Buyer, who de-



JOHN S. GIBSON . . . Hat in the Ring . . .

## GP Changes Five Top Executives

Five executive changes in the General Petroleum Corporation were announced last week by Robert L. Minckler, president of the company.

John C. Sample, a director of the company, has been elected vice president. He will coordinate the company's manufacturing, pipe line, and supply activities.

P. O. Swayze has been elected vice president and director of production. He succeeds M. S. App who is retiring.

J. T. Durkee has been elected Treasurer and a Director, succeeding Wesley Cunningham, who is also retiring. Durkee retains the post of Comptroller.

A. D. Bennison, manager of the Oil Exchange and Supply Department, has been elected Director of Oil Supply.

A. O. Woll, director of the company's Marine Department, is also retiring. No successor director was named.

The three departing directors, App, Cunningham, and Woll, are retiring under the company's annuity plan which dates back to 1912. App has been with General Petroleum for 40 years, and Cunningham for 34 years. Woll has been with General Petroleum and affiliated companies for 42 years.

foated four others in 1937 and Charles J. Cotten, who won over as many candidates in 1927, were the only councilmen to score primary triumphs.

More, who served eight years, holds the longevity record, while Buyer held the post six years to be runner up. All other candidates prior to Gibson each served four years.

**Vote Record**  
Moore, who served eight years, for the largest total vote polled in the district, getting 13,693 in 1947. That year also saw the largest total vote in district history with 21,704 casting ballots.

It was the same year that Moore polled the highest margin for any candidate when he defeated Wilder Hartley by 5682 votes in the final run-off.

Edward Harris, who made the race in 1925, polled the least number of votes, getting only 69. A. E. Henning, who served four years before losing to Buyer in 1933, polled the largest vote of any losing candidate, getting 10,284. He lost by a 1100 margin.

Nominating positions for all candidates were available Monday, and must be completed by Jan. 31. Earliest date for filing petitions was yesterday.

Primary municipal balloting will be on April 7 with the final election on May 26.

## Local Housewife Wins Radio Phone Contest

Mrs. Frances Caruso, 20825 Hawthorne Ave., received one group of Christmas presents which she didn't expect over the holidays: an assortment of merchandise prizes from Stu Wilson, morning disc jockey of the Catalina radio station KBIG. The "loot" was her reward for being home when Wilson telephoned her.



**BATTLEFIELD BARS . . .** Walter Korsgaard, son of Mrs. Carla Korsgaard, 1827 Santa Fe Ave., receives a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant from Col. W. M. P. Northcross, Eighth Army ordnance officer, at a ceremony in Korea. Lt. Korsgaard distinguished himself while serving with a demolition detachment as a sergeant. He entered the Army in 1945 and served in the European Theater during World War II. He has been in Korea since last February.

## Legal Holidays for 1953

New Year's	Thurs., Jan. 1, 1953
Lincoln's Birthday	Thurs., Feb. 12, 1953
Washington's Birthday	Mon., Feb. 23, 1953
Good Friday	Fri., 12-3 p.m., April 3, 1953
Memorial Day	Sat., May 30, 1953
Independence Day	Sat., July 4, 1953
Labor Day	Mon., Sept. 7, 1953
Admission Day	Wed., Sept. 9, 1953
Columbus Day	Mon., Oct. 12, 1953
Armistice Day	Wed., Nov. 11, 1953
Thanksgiving	Thurs., Nov. 26, 1953
Christmas	Fri., Dec. 25, 1953



**SIGNS OF THE TIMES . . .** Steve Schmidt swings a sledge while partner Frank Higgins holds the stake as the two break ground for the new Star Furniture Store to be located at Cravens Ave. and Torrance Blvd. The modern store will be built by Jacob Koch, co-owner of the firm.